

Remarks

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Sellman for the courtesy which she extended to Applicants' representatives, Michael A. Makuch and Mary A. Montebello, in a telephonic Examiner Interview held on August 9, 2007.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 13, 20, 21, 25, 26, 28-30 and 32 are pending herein. By this Amendment, claims 1, 13, 26 and 30 have been amended, and claims 2, 14, 27 and 31 have been canceled.

Specifically, claims 1, 13, 26 and 30 have been amended to include the contents of canceled claims 2, 14, 27 and 31, respectively.

In the Final Office Action, claims 13, 14, 20-25 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0000415 to Ross; and claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 26-29 are rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0123240 to Gallagher et al. in view of Ross and U.S. Patent No. 6,420,088 to Angelopoulos et al..

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action.

In the Examiner Interview Summary Record prepared for the August 9 interview, the Examiner stated that:

The Examiner agreed to the withdrawal of the rejections directed towards the specific pressure being used has to be below 1 torr for the first step and above 1 torr for the second step.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 13, 26 and 30 to recite that the first pressure is below 1 torr and the second pressure is 1 torr or above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections set forth in the Office Action be withdrawn.

In view of the amendment and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections set forth in the Office Action be withdrawn and that claims 1, 8, 9, 13, 20, 21, 25, 26, 28-30 and 32 be allowed.

U.S. Serial No.: 10/727,038
Attorney Docket No.: 033082M185

If any additional fees under 37 C. F. R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 033082M185.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date : October 19, 2007

MAM/MM/cj

Enclosures: (1) Request for Continued Examination
(2) Check for the sum of \$810